

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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OUTLAW OF THE MISSISSIPPI SLOUGHS

PEACOCK, IOWA'S TECHNICOLOR CHICKENS

Like most experiments, no one knows how or where it started, but fifty years ago it gave Iowa farms the look of English estates. In barnyards usually reserved for more familiar poultry, there appeared a regal bird from the other side of the world—the blue peacock. At the turn of the century at least 13 flocks were to be found on Van Buren County farms.

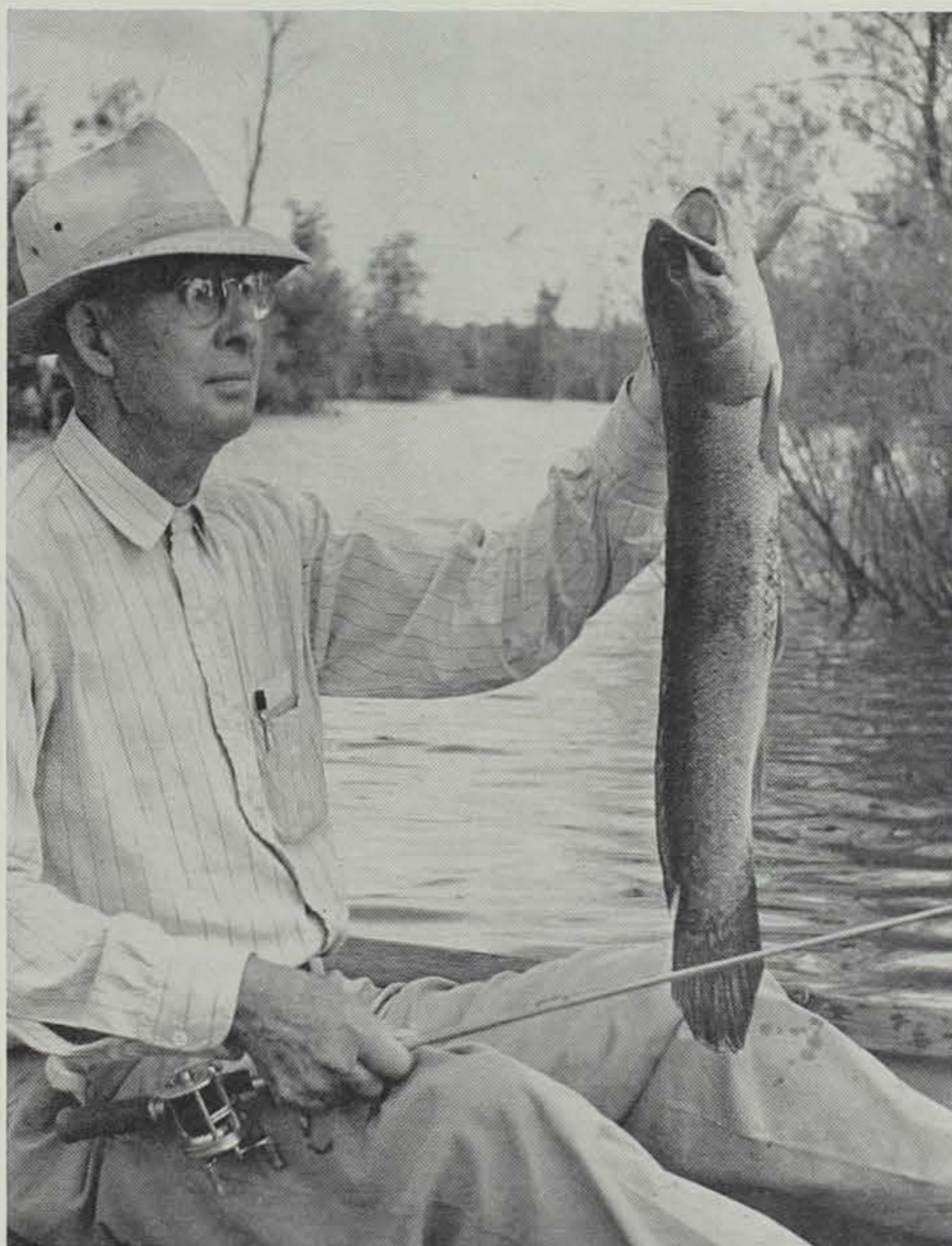
The peacock was, to southern Iowa farmers, a dual purpose poultry, a combination of lawn decoration and table delicacy. Since they are members of the pheasant family, they ranked high on both counts.

They were vain birds, and for good reason. They are not large, weighing about seven pounds, but their magnificent fans measured four feet high and spanned seven feet. This fan, the peacock's claim to fame, was not its true tail. It is made up of the upper tail coverts located ahead of the true tail, which is stubby and unimpressive. The fan was mounted on thick down "pillows" and its long iridescent blue and purple plumes were each tipped with a beautiful "eye." The rest of the bird's plumage was shaded with metallic blues and greens, and on the heads of the cocks were tiny coronets of delicate plumes that could be raised and lowered at will.

Old cocks were aware of their great beauty, and often chose banks of flowers as backdrops for their courting displays. If the hens were also aware of this beauty, it took them a long time to get around to admitting it. They often ignored the courtship for weeks. In the meantime the cocks flashed their fans at pigeons and other birds, apparently just for pleasure, keeping in practice until the hens surrendered to the dazzling display.

The peafowl were extremely durable. They got along well in

(Continued on page 159)



The dogfish, alias John A. Grindle, is found abundantly in the sloughs of the Mississippi River where he is a savage and voracious predator.

Jim Sherman Photo.

By John Madson
Education Assistant

John A. Grindle is a thug and a killer. He is stupid, vicious and unloved. The only things that can be said in his favor are that he fights to the death, takes good care of his children and in limited numbers plays an important part in the complicated balance of our fishing waters.

We first met old John while fishing for crappies in a Mississippi slough, when he engulfed a bait minnow and headed downriver. He felt much like a northern pike, fighting deep and with great power. After five minutes he was brought to the bank, trying his best to bite the hook in half. One look at his dental equipment was enough to discourage removing the hook by hand, so he was dispatched and the hook cut out. Even that took some doing, for old John was very tenacious of life. He does not die easily, and there are records of his living all night on a river bank after being caught by a fisherman.

Depending on where he hails from, he may be called a mudfish, dogfish, grindle, grindle cat or bowfin. "Dogfish" is his most common Iowa name; "John A. Grindle" is a southern alias.

The dogfish is a hangover from ancient times, and like any hangover, is not pleasant to behold. His body is a heavy cylinder covered with round, armor-like scales. The head is slightly flattened on top and the mouth has many strong, sharp teeth. The dogfish's tail is not forked, but is a single round lobe.

These fish approach beauty in the spring when the males are wearing their mating colors. Their lower fins become a vivid paint green, and a dark spot on the tail of the male is bordered with brilliant yellow or orange. The long, low fin along the back is dark green with a narrow olive band along the upper margin and another near the base. At other times the fish is a dull, olive above, with a light cream-colored belly.

Dogfish fight like game fish, but

(Continued on page 159)

THE WAUBONSIE STATE PARK

By Charles S. Gwynne
Professor
Department of Geology
Iowa State College

Plenty of hills in Waubonsie State Park, and most of them are forest covered. The park is a good place in which to hike, particularly on a cool autumn day. And while hiking and looking about, one may dwell upon the interesting story of the geological past of this area.

The mile-square park is located

in southwestern Fremont County five miles north of Hamburg, about six miles north of the Missouri state line, and only a few miles from the Missouri River. It almost misses being in Iowa.

The hills are typical of the Missouri River bluffs. They line both sides of the valley of the big river, but are perhaps most rugged on the Iowa side. The surface here is underlain with loess, a deposit of windblown silt. It is quite

(Continued on page 158)

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1953 DEER SEASON SET

For the first time in more than seventy-five years, Iowans will legally hunt deer this fall. A 1953 five-day deer season has been announced by the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Forty-five counties will be opened in the any-deer season, which will extend from December 10 through December 14, inclusive. Hunting hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Legal weapons for taking deer will be bows and arrows and shotguns using rifled slugs. Bows must be of at least forty pounds pull and must shoot broad head big game arrows. Shotguns permitted include 10-gauge, 12-gauge, 16-gauge, and 20-gauge. The use of 28-gauge and .410 shotguns is forbidden, as are buckshot, rifles, or any other shot. Crossbows and bows with mechanical cocking devices are prohibited. Salt or bait to lure deer is not permitted, nor is the use of dogs, domestic animals, automobiles, aircraft or any other mechanical conveyance.

Licenses will be issued only to Iowa residents, and the fee is \$15. Farmers, and their families or tenants living on the farm, are not required to possess deer licenses for hunting on their own land.

Hunters must tag each deer killed with a metal locking seal, to



Iowa's deer herds are known to contain many fine bucks with unusual racks.

be placed between the tendon and bone of the deer's hind leg. Each hunter is permitted to possess one deer of any age or sex, and tags will be issued with deer licenses. Farmers are not required to tag deer unless the carcass is removed from their property.

Postal card "kill reports" will be issued with licenses, and must be filled out and sent to the Conservation Commission within three days after the closing of the deer season.

Applications for a license may be obtained from the State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court Ave., Des Moines, or from local conservation officers. The application must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$15, and must be in not later than November 15. If total applications exceed 20,000, a drawing will be held and license fee refunded to those not successful in obtaining a permit.

As a safety measure, a special red cardboard insignia to be worn by hunters will be issued at the time of licensing.

DEPARTMENT OF QUIZ INFORMATION

A famous quiz program once had a jackpot question that stumped everyone. For about a thousand dollars the man wanted to know the names of male and female swans.

It's too late to cash in now, but the answer was "cob" and "pen." Several guests knew a "cygnet"

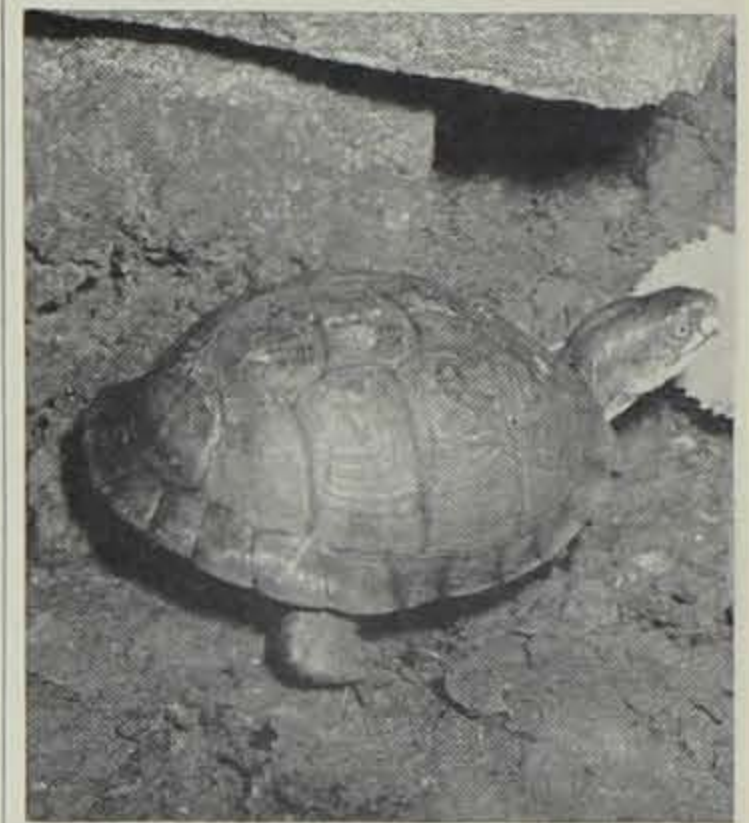
was a young swan, but the money question was never answered.

In case such a question ever comes up again, here's a list of the old common names of male, female and young birds and animals. Some of these names go back hundreds of years, and are known today only by game breeders, scholars and quizmasters.

The most widely used names head the list of each species, followed by other names used locally.



This baby woodchuck, known as a kit, is waiting at his front door for his mother, known as a she-chuck.



In the quiz department, the male terrapin is a bull, the female a cow.



This little male sandpiper is a ruff. His spouse would be called a ree or reeve.

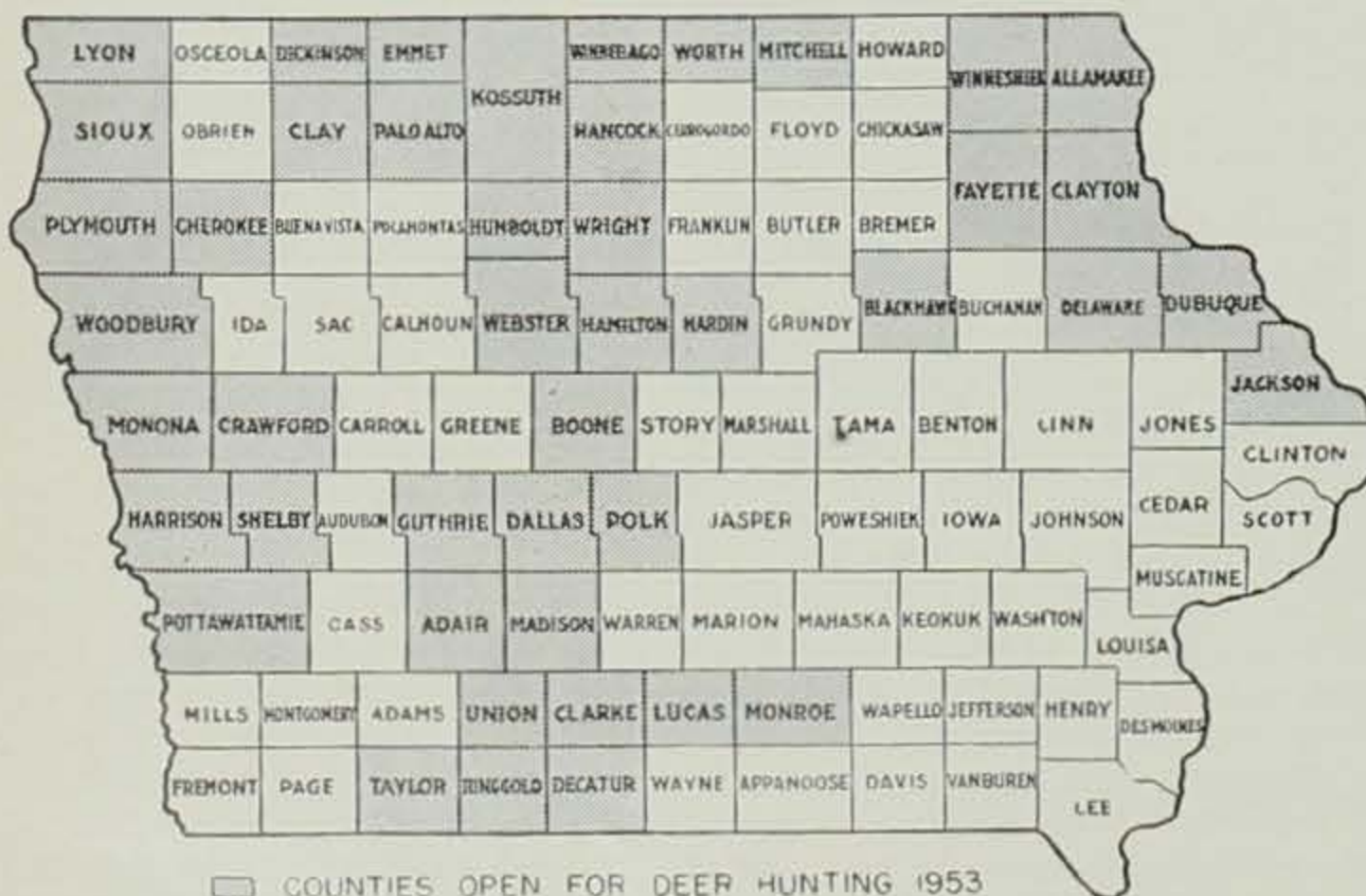
Species	Male	Female	Young
Bear	boar	sow	cub
Bird (song-bird)	cock	hen	nestling
	stag		chick
Bobcat (and lynx)	tom	lioness	kitten
			cub
Cat (domestic)	tom	tabby	kitten
	tomcat	grimalkin	kit
	gib	malkin	kitling
	gibcat	pussy	
	boarecat	queen	
	ramcat		
Cougar (mountain lion)	tom	lioness	kitten
	lion	she-lion	cub
Crane			colt
Deer	buck	doe	fawn
	stag		teg (F)
			spitter (M)
Duck	drake	duck	duckling
			flapper
Elk	bull	cow	calf
Fox	fox	vixen	kit
	dog-fox	bitch	cub
Goose	gander	goose	gosling
Grouse	cock	hen	chick
			poult
Hare	buck	doe	kitten
	puss	puss	pussy
Lion	lion	lioness	cub
	tom	she-lion	lionet
Lobster	cock	hen	chicken
Mink	boar	sow	kit
			cub
			calf
Moose	bull	cow	chick
Pheasant	cock	hen	
	rooster		
Pronghorn	buck	doe	fawn
			kid
Rabbit	buck	doe	kitten
Raccoon	boar	sow	kit
			cub
Sandpiper	ruff	ree	reeve
Skunk	boar	sow	kit
			cub
Terrapin	bull	cow	
Turkey	gobbler	hen	chick
	tom		poult
	cock		
Wolf	dog-wolf	bitch	pup
	dog	she-wolf	cub
		dam	
Woodchuck	he-chuck	she-chuck	kit
Weasel	boar	sow	kit
Wild boar	boar	sow	pig

Other strange, old names are those of groups of animals:

- a colony of ants
- a flock or coven (small group) of birds
- a bevy of quail
- a trip of seals
- a shoal of porpoise
- a pack of wolves
- a plump of wildfowl
- a pod of whales
- a covey of partridges
- a stand of plover
- a siege of herons
- a pride of lions

- a cast of hawks
- a wisp of snipe
- a troop of buffalo
- a skulk of foxes
- a building of rooks
- a muster of peacocks
- a shoal of herring
- a gang of elk
- a flight of doves
- a brood of grouse
- a nide of pheasant
- a watch of nightingales
- a pod of walrus

J.M.



□ COUNTIES OPEN FOR DEER HUNTING 1953



The 'coon hunting season has been lengthened a month by opening October 10 instead of November 10. The trapping season for raccoon will not open before November 10.

'COON SEASON LENGTHENED A MONTH

Iowa 'coon hunters will have three months for their favorite sport this year, with the raccoon season extending from October 10 through January 10.

This year's opening is a month earlier than in 1952. Although our 'coon populations have been very high in recent years, the dates within which a season could be set were fixed by law and could not be changed except by legislative action. The 55th General Assembly broadened these dates and granted the Conservation Commission power to define method of take. Under the new law the Commission was enabled to lengthen the season to increase the harvest of this year's raccoon population.

The October 10-January 10 season is for hunting only, and raccoon trapping dates have not yet been set. Since raccoons are usually trapped with water sets, an early trapping season would also endanger mink, muskrat and beaver, none of which may be taken in October. All trapping seasons will be announced at a later date.

During the open season raccoons may be taken with dogs and any legal hunting weapons, including bow and arrow. There is no bag or possession limit of raccoons.

The early opening should prove an advantage to hunters in northern Iowa, where 'coons often begin to den up soon after the old November 10 opening date.

It is unlawful to train fox hound, raccoon hound or trailing dog on any fur-bearing animals between sunset and sunrise from September 10 to October 10. It is also unlawful for any person to use a dog to hunt, molest or chase any raccoon between the same dates.

FISHING HERE AT HOME

A lot of fishermen travel all the way to northern points and into Canada in search of a good place to fish. For those who have the money to pay for this it is all right, but for those who want to fish there are opportunities within a few miles of Knoxville. One Knoxville man, a good fisherman, stated this week that there are a lot of game fish in the Des Moines River, and to prove his point he brought in a ten-pound northern pike. And he says there are a lot of other game fish if one has the knowledge and patience to get them. Many have caught catfish weighing up to twenty pounds the past few years and there are a lot of good ones bigger than that which have never been touched. So why go to Canada and the Minnesota lakes when there is real fishing right here. And if you don't catch anything at all you'll have the same fun as they do in the northern lakes—and some who go there do not catch anything, either. —Knoxville Express.

New outboard motor owners will be interested in a 16-page booklet now available from the Outboard Boating Club of America.

The booklet "Outboard Handling" relies heavily on photos and diagrams and covers such fundamentals as installing the motor, loading, boarding, getting underway, passing and over-taking other boats, maneuvering, mooring, and "rules of the road". The publication is part of the OBC's continuing "common sense afloat" program and is presented as a public service during what promises to be a boom outboarding year.

It is free of charge and may be obtained by writing OBC headquarters at 307 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago I, Illinois.

NEW DUCK MARSHES FOR SOUTHERN IOWA

By Lester Faber
Superintendent of Federal Aid

When marshes and sloughs were being handed out, vast areas in southern Iowa were forgotten. Unlike portions of northern Iowa that were visited by glaciers, the pot-holes and lakes so vital to waterfowl are lacking.

This oversight of nature is being remedied in part by Pittman Robertson development of several new marsh areas in the southern part of the state; the Colyn Area and Brown Slough in Lucas County and the LaHart Wildlife Area in Monroe County.

The Colyn Area and Brown Slough lie in the floodplain of the Chariton River, which is edged along most of its course by a series of marshy flats. From a wildlife standpoint these flats have never been much good, since by fall most of the water has drained away. The result is land that is too wet to farm but not wet enough to provide good duck habitat unless the water is held by some artificial method. The heavy bottom soils are difficult to drain but will hold water if the supply is ample.

Of the 650 acres in Brown Slough, 250 acres will be developed and managed for waterfowl. The marsh is being created by the construction of earthen dikes and a concrete water control structure to retain water levels. The control structure was recently completed and dike construction has begun. The marsh should be finished before the 1953 waterfowl season but it is doubtful that the area will offer hunting this year unless there are substantial fall rains.

The rest of the area will be developed for upland species such as quail and squirrels. Brown Slough will also provide public fishing access to about one and one-half miles of the Chariton River.

Up the river a few miles is the Colyn Area, an excellent combination of waterfowl and upland game habitat about four miles

south of the town of Russell. Since only 125 acres of the 650-acre area will be marsh, much of the Colyn Area will consist of quail, squirrel, rabbit and pheasant habitat. Construction and impoundment of water may not be completed in 1953 but should be finished by the fall of 1954.

Because they are so close together, the two areas will furnish an almost unbroken public hunting ground of thirteen hundred acres, and should be a good check on the value of combined marsh and upland game hunting areas in southern Iowa.

An old railroad sign that still stands has given the LaHart Wildlife Area its name. A small tract along Cedar Creek in Monroe County southwest of Lovilia, the LaHart Area consists of 180 acres, 50 of which will be developed as marsh.

The location of the area was an important factor in its acquisition. No other permanent marshes are available for waterfowl in this part of southern Iowa. Because of its small size it will probably be held as a refuge, which doesn't decrease its value to hunters. Refuges where ducks can find food and rest and be unmolested by hunters are badly needed in the area. Even a small marsh will draw in some ducks, and a refuge will furnish a reservoir of waterfowl and sustain hunting long after ducks are "burned out" of surrounding districts.

Although the LaHart Area will be completed this fall, spring rains will be needed to fill the water area.

These developments will be interesting to watch, for the three areas are the first permanent marsh impoundments in this section of Iowa.

How much will these marshes affect the waterfowl flyways through this part of the state? Will these areas help solve the problem of wise land use of sub-marginal land along the Chariton River? Important questions, and we may know some of the answers in a few years.



The land in the Colyn and Brown's Slough areas is too wet to farm, but not wet enough to provide duck shooting. Dikes will be built to impound water for the new duck marshes.



Jim Sherman Photo.

The number of crowing cocks heard at a given place for a given period of time is one of several indexes used to keep track of pheasant trends.

THE BIOLOGY QUARTERLY SEMINAR

By E. B. Speaker
Superintendent of Biology

Regular quarterly meetings or seminars have come to be a part of the program of biologists of the Conservation Commission. At these meetings reports of new findings and progress on long time studies are made. General discussion follows reading of formal papers. Professors from the Co-operative Research Unit of Iowa State College and departmental heads and supervisors of the Fish and Game Division are invited to be present and discuss problems of mutual concern.

The Biology Seminar stimulates interest and competition among the biologists, serves as a means of disseminating information to administrators and field personnel of this and neighboring states, and prompts all the men to write up their findings rather than to file them away where their value is often lost.

The work of the individual biologists may change from season to season. At each seminar one or more phases of the work of the preceding three months is reported upon. Thus at the end of the year

we have a fairly comprehensive picture of the major accomplishments of the department contained in the four volumes of the Quarterly Biology Reports.

To give our readers some idea of the scope of a typical quarterly seminar, a very brief summary of the July meeting is presented:

1953 Spring Pheasant Population Estimates

Dick Nomsen
Pheasant Biologist

A statewide survey is made of the crowing pheasant cocks each year. This is one of the several checks on Iowa's pheasant population. The spring counts show an increase in northeast Iowa over the preceding spring counts—but a slight decrease in eastern and central Iowa. Southwest Iowa again showed an increase and continues its upward trend. There are many more birds in the southwestern part of the state than in the south central or southeastern district. These data indicate that the statewide spring pheasant population was not greatly different from that of the previous year.



The 1952-53 winter check revealed a slight quail increase in the major quail territory.

1952-53 Winter Count of Quail in Iowa

Elden Stempel
Quail Biologist

Different methods are used in estimating the Iowa quail population. The winter covey check revealed a slight increase in quail in the major territory. Quail per winter covey averaged 7.2 birds. Last winter, 52 of the 75 quail ranges checked were occupied, and weather conditions were favorable for a good spring carryover. Sam-



Newton Daily News Photo.

Multiflora rose fence on the Arthur Watt farm near Newton, showing clover on one side and a plowed field on the other. Jasper County has 103,500 feet of multiflora rose field boundaries.

MULTIFLORA ROSE IS FARM ANSWER FOR LIVE FENCE

If a good permanent fence is needed along with a natural habitat for wildlife, soil conservation experts say that multiflora rose is the answer.

Gaining prominence the past few years, the multiflora rose is taking the place of the old osage hedge fence rows in the conservation pattern of Jasper County.

The picture above was taken on the Arthur Watt farm northwest of Newton. The fence is now six feet tall. Mr. Watt is a former commissioner in the Jasper conservation district. The roses are planted one foot apart. At the present time there are 103,500 feet of this type boundary in Jasper County.

The chief advantage of rose over osage is that it does not grow as tall and does not have a large root system to hamper crop growth.

The plant is particularly adapted for contour fencing or division between pasture and cropland. It is ideal for planting around a farm pond and other wildlife areas. It will turn any kind of livestock and requires no maintenance once established, according to conservationists.

The rose grows six to eight feet in height and has a spread of about the same distance.

It makes an excellent runway for birds and wildlife underneath and also an off-ground nesting place for birds in the top growth. It produces a seed berry that will supply food for birds during the winter months.—Newton News.

ple routes of the 1953 spring cock quail calling count show an increase over 1952.

1952-53 Raccoon Hunting Season

Glen Sanderson
Game Biologist

During the past four years success in raccoon hunting has varied little according to hunter reports for 1952-53. The average number of times each hunter engaged in this sport remained fairly constant for the first three years but dropped considerably during the past season.

In numbers Iowa's raccoon population appears to be still at a high level and perhaps increasing slightly. The 1952-53 harvest was the second highest in the past 20 years but was 7.2 per cent lower than the all-time high reported for 1951-52.

1953 Spring Creel Census on the Upper Des Moines River

Harry Harrison
Fisheries Biologist

In May and June a creel census was conducted on the Upper Des Moines River from Madrid to the Minnesota line. Four hundred and eighty anglers were interviewed. They had fished 883 hours up to the time of interview, and had caught 733 fish. This is an average of .83 fish per hour of fishing, which is quite high for streams. Over half of the fish caught were channel catfish, followed in order of importance by bullheads, carp, northern pike, crappies, walleyed pike and smallmouth bass.

This work was carried on in connection with routine fish survey work on the Des Moines River.

1953 Hatchery Studies at Spirit and Clear Lakes

Tom Moen
Fisheries Biologist

This spring the walleye hatch at the Spirit Lake hatchery was excellent and approximately 78 million walleye fry were stocked in fishing waters and nursery units. The northern pike eggs at this station did not hatch well because of

unfavorable weather conditions.

At the Clear Lake hatchery (which hatched northern pike for the first time this year), about three million northern pike fry were stocked in Ventura Marsh and Clear Lake proper.

Experiments were conducted to determine the maximum depths of water in which walleye fry could

(Continued on page 159)



Jim Sherman Photo.

Approximately 78 million walleye fry were stocked from the Spirit Lake hatchery during the spring.



Fox have been placed on the mandatory bounty list in each county. Red and grey fox both are worth two dollars each to the bounty hunter.

BOUNTIES ON WILD ANIMALS

(Chapter 350, Code of Iowa, as amended by the Fifty-fourth General Assembly)

Certain Animals—350.1

The board of supervisors of each county shall allow and pay from the county treasury bounties for wild animals caught and killed within the county as follows:

For each adult wolf	\$10.00
For each wolf (cub)	4.00
For each lynx50
For each wildcat50
For each pocket gopher05
For each red or grey fox	2.00

Optional Bounties—350.2

The board may by resolution adopted and entered of record authorize the payment of bounties as follows:

For each crow	\$.10
For each groundhog25
For each rattlesnake50
For each European starling05
For each pocket gopher, an additional bounty of05

Additional Bounties—350.3

The board may determine what bounties, in addition to those named in section 350.1 and 350.2, if any, shall be offered and paid by the county on the scalps of such wild animals taken and killed within the county as it may deem it expedient to exterminate, but no such bounty shall exceed five dollars.

Filing Claims—Proofs—350.4

All claims for bounties shall be verified by the claimant, and filed with the county auditor, with such other proof as may be required by the board.

Showing Required—350.5

The verified claim shall show that each animal for which bounty is claimed was caught and killed within the county within thirty days next prior to the filing of the claim, and the claimant shall exhibit before the county auditor:

(Continued on page 159)

SIGHTING UPSTREAM

By John Garwood

The past 100 years have brought forth great changes in the hunting and fishing picture in central Iowa . . . and if it could be graphed it would offer an "up," then "down" and again "up" mark on the chart. Delving back into the old books—reviewing those tales told by my father who passed through Marshalltown when its lone edifice was the Anson cabin on Main Street—the story is . . . the prairie chickens were as abundant as sparrows are now . . . flights of wild pigeons darkened the skies . . . deer wandered the stream covers . . . and on moonlight nights the weird and mournful howl of the wolves echoed up and down the valley of the Iowa. Wildfowl of all kinds was abundant in great numbers . . . and the buffalo trails were still in evidence leading to the favorite wallows . . . yet already this great American beast had forsaken the Iowa prairies and gone on to the lands across the Missouri. The Iowa river teemed with walleyes, great northern, panfish and not so many catfish . . . it was primarily a walleye stream. In the spring and fall vast migrations of wildfowl offered unlimited shooting. Game and fish were brought to bag for food . . . and the sport element did not enter into the picture for some years.

In the fall of 1859 Ed Thorn in one day caught a 20 and a 24½ pound pike. As high as 70 pounds a day were taken by a single person with hook and line, with the fish averaging 4½ pounds. Later another resident caught a 27½ pound pike in the Iowa river below the old Woodbury mill (site of present Center Street bridge at the waterworks).

The western part of Jefferson township was noted for its prairie chicken hunting in this same era.

As the population of the county grew . . . the fish and game picture started to fade . . . year 'round shooting of game decimated the stock of wildfowl. The Iowa and tributary streams were heavily taxed . . . and then came the auto and "good roads" programs shortly after the turn of the century. A feeble attempt was made to control hunting and fishing . . . when thousands sought this form of rec-

RECOMMEND NEW JUVENILE BOOKS

Four new animal heroes, "Al Alligator", "Mac Mallard", "Woody Woodcock", and "Willie White-tail" recently joined Dr. R. W. Eschmeyer's growing series of True-To-Life animal adventure stories for juvenile readers, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. These bring to 10 the number of authoritative stories about fish, birds, and mammals now available in this set.

The four books conform to Eschmeyer's completely new approach to children's literature which, in "Charley Cottontail", "Bob White", and all his previous books, won the enthusiastic approval of education and conservation leaders. Unlike the gushy sensationalisms and unrealistic plots of many present-day animal stories for young readers, the True-To-Life series is written in an entertaining, yet factual manner, devoid of human distortion, and depicting the dynamic world in which game animals live. Children can follow their animal heroes from birth to maturity, learning their habits and sharing with them the impacts of weather, food, shelter, animal competition, and many upon their well being. Cleverly woven into each story are lessons in sportsmanship and in management of our nation's renewable natural resources—its soil, water, vegetation, and animals.

The True-To-Life series of animal adventure stories is published by the Fisherman's Press, Oxford, Ohio. These attractively illustrated volumes are available in paper binding for 50 cents and in cloth binding for one dollar with special discounts on quantity orders for schools and organizations. They can not be recommended too highly.—*Outdoor News Bulletin Wildlife Management Institute.*

reation compared to the few individuals 100 years ago.

The creating of the Iowa Conservation Commission . . . its "25 year program" and intelligent trained experts . . . have been able to cope with the aspirations of hundreds of thousands of Iowa fishermen and hunters . . . to the extent that there is now fishing and hunting for all.—*Marshalltown Times-Republican.*



The groundhog is on the optional bounty list in each county.



The past hundred years have brought great changes. The airplane has come, and the deer have returned.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Mile-square Waubonsie State Park is located in the southwest corner of the state five miles north of Hamburg. It's scenic hills are covered with timber.

Waubonsie . . .

(Continued from page 153)

thick, up to as much as 100 feet. From the bluff line eastward the thickness grows less, yet the loess extends widely over southern Iowa. It is thought that most of the material was blown from the Missouri bottoms at intervals during glacial times. In the summers great floods of melted water poured from the glaciers which then stood farther north. As the winter weather came the melting would cease. The floods which had covered the valley bottom would subside, leaving a barren surface of clay, silt and sand. This quickly dried out. Then as the westerly winds sprang up great clouds of dust were whirled into the air.

By this time the country adjacent to the valley probably had acquired at least some vegetation. This, and the more uneven land surface of the upland, helped to hold the dust as it settled out. So the deposit grew until it attained its present thickness. The farther from the river, the thinner the loess.

In the roadside cuts in the park, you'll find no glacial stones, but here and there are the shells of snails that lived on the land surface upon which the dust was being deposited. The shells are almost white, and are very fragile. They may be found in many exposures of the loess. Loess also contains the impressions of plant stems.

The maze of valleys and steep ridges in the park are the result of the wear of running water, acting on this easily eroded loessial material. The long, sharp, grassy ridge stretching out from the Lookout has thus been made. So has the wide valley to the south of it and just below the Lookout. This valley is unusual in that it is so wide, yet has no apparent stream channel in the bottom. The valley has grown to such size and the bottom is so mantled with porous alluvium derived from the loess that most of the water sinks in rather than runs off.

The valley in which the picnic area lies is much like this. Also note the grassy glades extending up the valley side, which serve as picnic spots. They are alluvial fans, built up by deposition from the run-off in the tributary. It is interesting to note that the tributary ravines are not gullied. They have a gently rounded cross-section, much like that of the main valley. The loess has an open texture and much of the water falling on the surface sinks in. The litter of leaves and twigs and the rootlets in the soil help in this.

The view from the Lookout is superb. In the foreground are the ridge and the wide valley already mentioned. Beyond is the wide floodplain of the Missouri and in the distance the wooded slopes of the Nebraska side of the valley. Nebraska City, Nebraska, is directly west on the other side of the river, about seven miles away.

The floodplain and valley were

made by the Missouri River. Through the ages the river has wandered back and forth over the area of the floodplain. Often it changes a part of its course. Commonly it does this by breaking across the narrow neck of a loop. This results in putting part of either of the states on the opposite side of the river. North of Nebraska City there is an area of about three square miles of Nebraska which lies east of the river. The river has changed, but the boundary between the states stays the same.

Below the Lookout the grassy slope is in "cat steps" a few feet apart. Slopes on grassy hillsides all along the Missouri bluffs have this feature. They are the result of the slipping of the loessial subsoil along almost vertical cracks called joints. Cattle tend to walk along these steps, making them more definite to the observer.

At the base of the bluff along the river there is some rock showing in a cut made along the gravel road. It is mostly a crumbly, sandy material, hardly deserving of the name of rock. The hardest part, a brown sandstone, has in it the impressions of leaf fragments. These are a little browner than the rest and no more than an inch or two across.

This rock is the upper bedrock of the vicinity. It is hardened sediment of an ancient sea and the system which contains the coal of Iowa. The leaf impressions in the sandstone are from plants of the same sort as those that grew in the coal-forming swamp.

The forests of Waubonsie screen an area where much has happened since the earth was formed. It is only the later chapter of the story that is disclosed, but it is this chapter that has made the park area such a scenic and interesting place.



Jim Sherman Photo.

"The Iowa Great Lakes is seeing some of the best fishing it has seen in a good many years."

THEY WERE HERE LAST YEAR, TOO . . .

The Iowa Great Lakes is seeing some of the best fishing it has seen in a good many years this season.

What exactly is responsible for it is not known. It might be the weather. It might be a fish food condition. It might be that fish are eating more these days.

But one thing is pretty certain—something that didn't happen. The fish that are being taken this year didn't grow up through the winter.

Last year, with fishing not at its best, and with only the genuine fishermen getting their limit catches, there were many complaints. The most common was, "there's no fish in our lakes." And in so saying, there was the urge to put the blame on someone.

This year, little has been said. Fishermen, by hundreds and thousands, are finding out there are, and were, fish in the lakes.

And something stands to reason logically. Providing fish is one thing. Getting them to become easy prey to the sporting angler is another.

Most of us have enough understanding to know that the biology of a fish makes it impossible for six and seven pound walleyes to become that size in a year. And 10 pound northerns don't put on their last nine pounds during the winter months.

With so many sizeable fish being taken this year, we can stand assured there were large numbers of large fish in the lakes last year—despite criticism.

Why we weren't catching them in large numbers we still don't know.

But it might be well this year to take stock of our attitudes. And have a little more conclusive proof that there is a fish shortage before we jump at that conclusion because we don't find them fighting to get on our line.

Until then, it might be well to chalk up the extreme fluctuation of fish catches to the nature of fishing.—Spirit Lake Beacon.



The view from Waubonsie Lookout is superb. Over the ridges of the park may be seen the wide Missouri Valley and beyond the wooded slopes of the Nebraska bluffs.

Outlaw . . .

(Continued from page 153)

unlike big bass or pike, they aren't very resourceful. They seldom fight toward rocks or snags attempting to break the line. They simply haul away like a mad dog, showing no finesse or strategy. In extremely hot weather dogfish sometimes fight with one powerful flurry and then give up. But so do bass.

When taken from a midsummer slough a dogfish is quite soft. In spite of this flabbiness of flesh he is quite powerful.

In cool weather it's another story. The muscles of the dogfish become firm, and he shows great lasting power when hooked. In spring or fall a large dogfish can put up a vicious, prolonged battle, and is the equal of any pike.

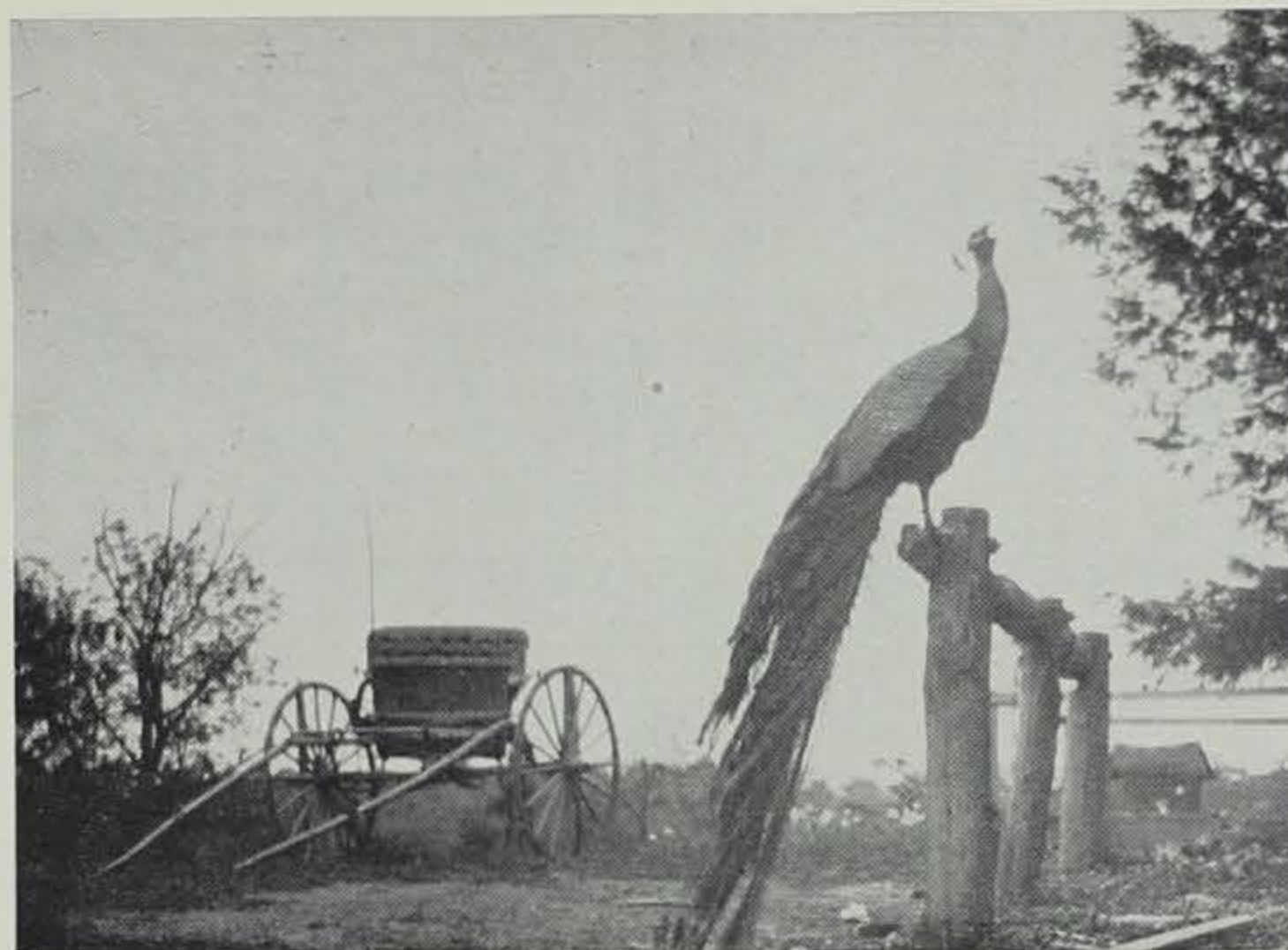
A stranger once came up to a slough near Clinton where several natives were fishing for crappies and bullheads. He was dressed in the best tradition of the purist angler, and was assembling a beautiful six-foot casting rod. Using a small diving plug on a light line, he cast along the edge of the slough until the lure was solidly smashed by a fish.

The old-timers along the bank watched the fracas for a time and nudged each other happily. One of them finally remarked to the angler that he was fast to a dogfish, not a bass. The stranger, who was barely holding his own with the big bowfin, looked over his shoulder and grinned, "Yes . . . I know." He was one of a rare breed, the fishermen who deliberately go after dogfish with light bass tackle.

The best way to fish for dogfish is to fish for something else. They are often caught while fishing for bass. They eat almost anything living in the water, and will strike any natural or artificial bait. Large dogfish are often taken in the fall, when anglers are going after bass in Mississippi sloughs with large golden shiners for bait. Another good time to catch them is in May when the males are guarding their eggs or fry on the nest. Since they'll attack anything that moves near the nest, plugs and spinners often produce strong results.

Few dogfish caught on hooks weigh over 6 to 8 pounds. The real lunkers are usually taken only by commercial fishermen using nets, who sometimes report dogfish running over twenty pounds. These old fish are often ones that have been trapped in overflow waters or oxbow lakes. Although many other fish may have been trapped at the same time, the net will produce only a few large bowfins. Everything else has been eaten.

Dogfish offer the fisherman a good scrap, but little else. In summer its flesh spoils very rapidly, and is too soft for food. Few fishermen eat dogfish. In the fall, however, commercial fishermen often keep them and sell them in eastern markets with other rough



Peacock crowing from a hitching post on the George Crawford Duffield farm in Van Buren County. From a 1903 wet-plate photograph by Edgar R. Harlan.

Peacock . . .

(Continued from page 153)

Iowa and like the turkeys of the time roosted in trees even in sub-zero weather.

And, like their ring-necked cousins, they couldn't be pushed around. Dr. Fred Knowles of Fort Dodge once watched a clash between a peacock and some turkey gobblers.

Several of the big gobblers decided that a peacock's presence was not required in the barnyard. Like a gang of toughs, they closed in on the fancy bird, wings drooping and necks extended. The peacock ignored them, not moving as the circle of belligerent turkeys grew smaller. At the last moment, as the gobblers closed in, the peacock sprang straight up, rattling his tail and tearing the air with his short, powerful wings. The turkeys took the brunt of the wingbeats and the peacock flew a short distance away, still ignoring his enemies. The combat went on for about an hour until the turkeys, battered and crestfallen, gave up and left the field.

While peacocks weren't gentle, they seldom had the vicious tempers ascribed to them. Nor did they bring bad luck, a common superstition. But old farmers agree on one point: the peacock's call. On a quiet summer morning its cry could be heard for miles. It was a cross between a banshee wail and an air raid siren, and at a dis-

fish. When taken fresh from cool water the dogfish is said to have a good flavor, but the scales make it tough to clean. When smoked the fish is said to be good eating, although a little dry.

There's one thing about the dogfish that bothers fisheries workers. Who was the original John A. Grindle, for whom the dogfish was named? It's an old handle, and Mr. Grindle has probably been deceased for a long time. If he was anything like his namesake, he was a mean man.

tance it resembled a person calling for help.

They were excellent food birds, the young cocks and hens being tender and delicious. Old cocks tended to be a bit tough and stringy. Since a farm's peacock flock was seldom more than 20 birds, they were usually saved for special occasions and there weren't more than half a dozen peacock dinners in a year.

The plumes were used for various purposes, one of which was "fly brushes." Those were also the days, remember, when it was very elegant to have a crock of peacock plumes on the parlor mantel.

A regular annual farm chore was plucking the plumes, usually in early August just before the birds moulted. Plumes plucked from the birds were better than those that were dropped and soiled and damaged in the barnyard. However, a peacock that had too many feathers jerked from his fan lost his equilibrium. For several days he would wobble around the barnyard in a condition resembling intoxication.

The peacocks thrived best when they were given the run of the farm. They nested in seclusion some distance from the buildings, bringing off small hatches of three to six chicks.

Since they were originally wild fowl, some of them probably reverted. If they did, they never made the grade; at least, no wild peacocks have ever been reported in the state. For the first six months of their lives they had to be guarded closely and confined. If not, they invariably wandered off and someone had to round them up. When they were driven back to the home farm they seldom flew, although they were capable of powerful, sustained flight. They seemed to prefer to run, like a cock pheasant after three days of open season.

Why the peacock failed as a farm bird is not known, but its popularity reached a climax about forty years ago and then faded

quickly. The Iowa farm peacock is now largely a nostalgic memory, gone the way of steam threshing machines and red schoolhouses.

Biology . . .

(Continued from page 156)

be successfully stocked. Fry were placed in tubes and lowered to a water depth of 100 feet in West Okoboji with no appreciable loss. Currently we are of the opinion walleye fry stocked in water of 10 to 25 feet in depth do better than those stocked on the shallow sandy shoal areas near shore.

1953 Spring Natural Lakes Creel Census

Earl T. Rose
Fisheries Biologist

Annual creel censuses are conducted on eight of Iowa's major fishing lakes. With the exception Spirit and Okoboji lakes the census is conducted for a period of six weeks, commencing May 15 and continuing until July 1.

A total of 230,000 fish were harvested by the 53,000 anglers contacted, or an average of 4.3 fish per person. Since 170,168 hours were spent on the lakes, the average angler caught 1.3 fish per hour of effort.

Spirit and Okoboji lakes are checked periodically throughout the year. Clear, Storm, Black Hawk, Lost Island and North Twin are checked for six weeks each season.

Bullheads lead the list of fish in numbers caught followed by crappies, walleyes, bluegills, northern pike, bass and catfish.

Bounties . . .

(Continued from page 157)

1. The whole skin of each wolf, lynx, fox or wildcat.
2. Both front feet and claws of each gopher.
3. The head and feet of each crow.
4. The head or scalp of each groundhog.
5. Two inches of the tail, with rattles attached of each rattlesnake.

Auditor To Destroy Proofs—350.6

The auditor shall:

1. Destroy or deface the skin of each wolf, lynx, and fox and wildcat as to prevent their use in obtaining another bounty and may return to the owner any such defaced skins and the rattles of any rattlesnake.
2. Destroy the heads, scalps, feet, claws and other portions required to be exhibited of such animals.

False Claim—350.7

Any person who shall claim or attempt to procure any bounty provided for in this chapter upon any animal which has been domesticated or who shall attempt to obtain any bounty by presenting any false claim or spurious exhibit, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars nor less than fifty dollars for each offense.

Section 4

The board of supervisors of each county may levy the necessary taxes to pay the claims provided for under this chapter and such taxes shall be used for no other purposes.

PHEASANT FLUSHING BAR

